Medical tourism

1597. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA.

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether medical tourism in our country is gaining ground in the international market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the initiatives that have been taken by Government to give a boost to this sector world-over and project India a favourite healthcare destination?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Medical Tourism has great potential in India due to a strong value proposition on cost, quality and service.

(c) The initiatives taken by the Government to exploit this potential are as follows:—

(i) A Task Force, headed by Secretary (Health) with Senior Officials of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Tourism and experts in the medical field has been constituted to assess the opportunities and to recommend action to be taken by the Government and private industry for promoting India as a health destination.

(ii) The Sub-Committees on accreditation and price banding constituted by Ministry of Tourism have submitted their reports with the accreditation norms and price banding worked out for identified hospitals and identified specialized medical services.

(iii) Indian Healthcare Federation, a Non-Governmental Organization affiliated to the Confederation of Indian Industry, on advice by Government, has prepared a guide on select Indian hospitals of the country, which could be used for health tourism purposes.

(iv) A new Category of 'Medical Visa' has been introduced which can be given for specific purpose to foreign tourist coming to India for medical treatment.

(v) Guidelines for accreditation of Ayurvedic and Panchkarma Centres have been finalized and issued for implementation.

(vi) It has been decided to prepare and print brochure, CDs and other publicity material to promote medical and health tourism.

(vii) Medical and health tourism has been specifically promoted at various international platforms such as World Travel Mart, London.

Development of Phoolbaghe, Gwalior

†1598. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether separate proposals regarding development of Phoolbagh, Gwalior, upgradation and development of Hotel Tansen and Sulabh complex, Orchha have been received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh under Circuit Development Scheme;

(b) if so, the details of these proposals; and

(c) by when, these proposals are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) A project for integrated development of Gwalior-Orchha-Khajuraho circuit has been sanctioned by Ministry of Tourism for central financial assistance of Rs. 461.09 lakh during 2005-06 , which includes the following components:

SI. No	Name of the component	Estimated expenditure (Rs. in lakh)
1.	Development of Phool BaghArea, Gwalior	221.28
2.	Upgradation of Tourist village, Khajuraho	74.03
3.	Facilitation centre at Khajuraho	67.42
4.	Watersports complex at Benisagar Dam, Khajuraho	29.76
5.	Sulabh complex Orchha	23.32
6.	Sulabh complex Khajuraho	23.32
	Total	439.13
7.	Add. 5% Architect fee	21.96
	Total cost of the project:	461.09

Development of Beaches

1599. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Andaman and Nicobar beach is ranked as one of the top ten beaches in the world;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.